GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1370
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Superstitions among Tribals
Ramachandran Shri Krishnan Narayanasamy

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the tribal population in the country is still reeling under various kinds of superstitions and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to create awareness and make them educated in this regard; and

(c) the assistance given by the Government for creating awareness/ conducting awareness programmes in this regard to various States during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JUAL ORAM)
(a) to (c): The general population of the country, including the tribals, have their share of superstitions. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2015 stipulates punishment for causing physical harm or mental agony of a member of Scheduled Tribes on the allegation of practicing witchcraft or being a witch. The offence shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than six months but which may extend to five years and with fine. However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has no programme that collects information about various kinds of superstitions, believed in by Scheduled Tribes. There are no specific interventions for superstitions in so far as the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is concerned. The Government of India, with a view to create awareness about various Government programmes / schemes, utilizes print, electronic, social media etc. on pan India basis including for the tribal population.
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